BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS

Ministry of Management Services

Infoline

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- **BC manufacturers more optimistic about the future**
- **Softwood lumber prices remain depressed in June**
- **BC's radio listening habits change: less talk shows, more golden oldies/rock**

The Economy

- **BC manufacturers surveyed in July were more optimistic about the future than they had been earlier in the year.** Thirty-three percent anticipated production increases, while 19% said production would be lower in the coming months. However, the balance of opinion on new orders was negative (-7), with more manufacturers anticipating declines (23%) than increases (16%). Expectations about inventory levels were also somewhat pessimistic: 22% thought their finished product inventory to be too high, while 7% said it would be too low. Opinion was divided on employment prospects, with 16% thinking they would improve, while 17% said there would be fewer jobs. Canadian manufacturers had a gloomier outlook, with 22% expecting production to decrease, while 20% said it would increase. The balance of opinion on new orders (-8) and employment prospects (-7) was also rather pessimistic.

  Source: Statistics Canada

- **BC softwood lumber prices remained depressed in June, at 16.2% below the June 2002 level.** Canadian wood pulp (-0.7%) and newsprint export (-7.0%) prices were also down. Overall, prices for manufactured goods fell 2.7%, largely because a strong Canadian dollar put downward pressure on prices received for goods exported to the US and abroad. Raw materials prices were up 3.2%, boosted by an 8.8% increase in prices for mineral fuels.

  Source: Statistics Canada

- **The Toronto Dominion Bank has substantially downgraded its economic growth forecast for BC this year**. The bank now expects real GDP to increase 1.7% in 2003, well below their February forecast of 2.9%. BC is expected to post the lowest GDP growth rate among the provinces. The dramatic rise in the Canadian dollar in the first half of the year has been the major factor pushing down economic growth forecasts across Canada. The rising currency has made our exports more expensive on US markets, and TD sees forestry exports as being particularly vulnerable. A downturn in tourism—another key industry in BC—has also contributed to the province's lower growth forecast. SARS, mad cow disease, and a sluggish US economy are also expected to hamper growth, and the bank is now forecasting that 5 provinces, including Ontario and Quebec, will grow less than two percent in 2003. *Source: TD Bank*

ITC Workers

- **The number of information and communication technology (ITC) workers in BC rose 81% between 1990 and 2000.** ITC workers still only account for 3.5% of the BC workforce, but this is a notable increase from 1990 (2.4%). Ontario is the centre for ITC employment with 5.4% of its workforce employed in the sector. Ontario has also seen the highest growth of ITC jobs over the last decade (+95.0%). Quebec, and then BC, rank second and third. The ITC sector is concentrated in large urban centres, and in BC, Vancouver (85%) and Victoria (8%) are home to most of the workers. *Source: SC, Catalogue 11-622-MIE*

Children with Disabilities

- **One in twenty-five (21,080) BC children aged 5 to 14 had some form of disability in 2001.** Most (12,980) had mild to moderate limitations, while 8,100 had severe to very severe disabilities (total loss of function, such as inability to walk or loss of sight). In most (13,290) cases, their parents did not receive, and did not need, help with housework, family responsibilities, or time off from work to care for the special needs of their child. However, a substantial number (4,730) needed more help than they were get-

Did you know...
Country stations dominate the airwaves in Atlantic Canada. They're ranked fourth in BC.

ting to cope with the situation. More than half (56%) of the families with disabled children indicated that their employment situation was affected. Parents worked fewer hours (37%), or adjusted their work hours (33%). Some (24%) quit working, while others (32%) did not take a job or turned down a promotion (16%) in order to care for their child. *Source: SC, Catalogue 89-586*

Smoking

- **BC had the lowest proportion of cigarette smokers in Canada in 2002.** Sixteen percent of people aged 15 and over are smokers, significantly below the national average of 21%. The highest smoking rates were in Quebec (26%) and Nova Scotia (25%). In BC, men are more likely to smoke than women (19% vs. 14%). As well, almost half of current smokers have unsuccessfully quit in the past—34% have quit one to three times, and 11% have quit on four or more occasions. For Canada as a whole, smoking is strongly related to socio-economic status. Only 13% of people with a university degree are current smokers. Among those who never completed high school, 24% are current smokers. *Source: Statistics Canada*

Government Expenditures on Culture

- **Federal, provincial and local governments in the province spent $750 million in support of cultural activities in 2000/01.** Nearly half ($306 million) of the expenditures were made by the provincial government, with local governments kicking in another $286 million. Federal spending in BC was a relatively modest $159 million.

  At $39 per capita, federal government spending on cultural activities in BC was the lowest in the country in 2000/01. The national average was $96 per capita, with Quebec ($135)–home to the French-language version of the CBC as well as numerous national heritage sites–getting the lion's share of federal spending. Federal culture expenditures were also disproportionately high in PEI ($119) and the territories, due to their small population. Ontario ($98) was the only other province to get a higher than average share of federal spending. The BC government spent $75 per capita, well above the national average of $68. Per capita spending in other provinces ranged from a low of $45 in Ontario to $99 in Quebec. Local governments in BC spent more to support cultural activities ($70 per capita, compared to $54 nationally) than municipalities in other provinces. Variations in per capita spending among the provinces are partly due to differences in the way cultural activities are funded (e.g., grants versus tax incentives). *Source: SC, Catalogue 87F0001XDB*

Radio Listening

- **Last fall, BC residents spent 18.3 hours a week listening to the radio, nearly two hours less than the national average (20.2).** Radio was most popular in PEI, where listening time averaged 22.2 hours per week. BC residents spent just 5% of their time tuned in to talk stations, down from 21% in 2001, when talk radio was the most popular format. Last fall, golden oldies/rock (34%) commanded the biggest market share. The CBC (16%) is more popular in BC than in any province west of New Brunswick. *Source: Statistics Canada*

The Nation

- **The Canadian economy inched ahead (+0.1%, seasonally adjusted) in May despite continued weakness (-0.2%) in the goods-producing industries.** Manufacturing (-0.4%), utilities (-0.3%) and mining, oil & gas extraction (-0.3%) all remained in a slump. Agriculture, forestry, fishing & hunting bounced back (+0.9%) from a sluggish (-2.7%) April, as better weather conditions brought some relief to drought-stricken Prairie farmers. Service industries propped up the economy, expanding 0.2% between April and May. Accommodation and food services (+0.8%) began to make a comeback after struggling through the first part of the year. Retail (+0.7%) and wholesale (+0.6%) trade also made solid gains However, the transportation industry remained in a tailspin, shrinking (-1.3%) for the fourth month in a row as lower manufacturing output, the SARS scare, post-war jitters, and financial instability at Air Canada continued to take a toll. *Source: Statistics Canada*

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Infoline Report

Issue: 03-31
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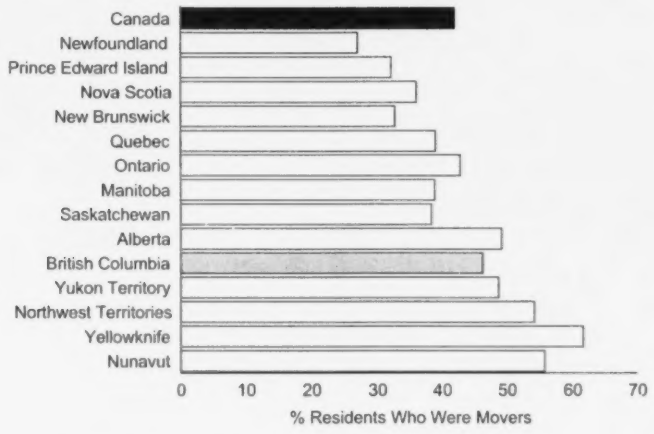
Author: Frank Ip, (250) 387-0336
Originally published in *Migration Highlights*, Issue 03-01. Annual subscription $30 + GST

Mobility and Migration During 1996–2001

Almost half (46%) of the population who lived in British Columbia at the time of the 2001 Census had changed their residence at least once over the period from 1996 to 2001 . . .



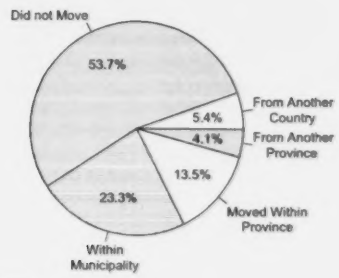
Movers can be divided into two main categories, namely, non-migrants and migrants. Non-migrants are those who moved within the same municipality and migrants are those who move between different municipalities (intra-provincial), from another province (inter-provincial) or from another country (external). In 2001, B.C. had a higher percentage of movers than the national average. Of those who had moved in B.C. between 1996 and 2001, about half moved within the same municipality, 29 per cent moved from a different municipality but remained in the province, 9 per cent from another province, and 12 per cent from another country.

Movers in B.C. tended to be young to middle aged. Two in every three B.C. residents aged 35–39 were movers. Seniors were less likely to move as only about 23 per cent of the population aged 65 or older were movers. However, when seniors moved they were more likely to remain within the same municipality than movers in other age groups. Female movers slightly outnumbered their male counterparts. Approximately 51 per cent of the B.C. movers were female.

B.C. Population 5 Years and Over By Mobility Status (Place of Residence 5 Years Ago)
(2001 Census—20% Sample)

Mobility Status \ Ages	Total	5–19	20–29	30–39	40–49	50–64	65+
Non Movers	1,967,855	406,870	154,700	203,785	364,960	448,965	388,575
Non Migrants	851,490	191,665	149,070	199,135	148,685	105,065	57,870
Intraprovincial migrants	493,215	95,865	100,720	111,530	77,085	68,660	39,355
Interprovincial migrants	151,720	27,615	37,645	32,690	22,205	20,105	11,460
External migrants	197,670	49,430	41,085	46,405	35,240	18,410	7,100
Total	3,661,945	771,440	483,220	593,540	648,165	661,215	504,365

B.C. Population by Mobility Status
1996-2001



Source: 2001 Census

Tracking of interprovincial migration (ie. migration between provinces) indicated that B.C. lost population to other parts of Canada over the period of 1996–2001. While B.C. was the most popular destination for interprovincial migrants from other provinces/territories during the first half of the decade, there was a net loss of 37,500 persons during the later part of the decade. This was a net result of an inflow of 241,000 people combined with a higher outflow of 278,500 persons. Over the 1996–2001 period, Alberta was the source for the majority of migrants arriving in B.C., but that province was also the destination for a large number of B.C. residents leaving the province. In fact, with the exception of Alberta, B.C. gained population in net terms from most other provinces, and only had a small net loss of population to the Atlantic region. The net loss of 52,388 people to Alberta was the single biggest drain of B.C.'s population over the 1996–2001 period.

Immigrants to B.C. (migrants from another country) more than made up for the loss of the province's population due to interprovincial migration. During the period 1996–2001, a total of 204,000 immigrants (including temporary residents from overseas) came to B.C. and 38,000 emigrants left B.C. to other countries. This resulted in a total net international migration of 182,000 people. Discounting the net loss of 37,500 interprovincial migrants, B.C. still had a total net gain of 145,000 people from all sources over the five-year period 1996–2001.

Among all census metropolitan areas (CMA) in the province, Vancouver had the highest number of movers. Approximately 42 per cent of the B.C. movers resided in the Vancouver CMA in 2001, followed by the Victoria CMA (9.8%) and Kelowna CMA (5.0%). The Vancouver CMA had a higher proportion of international migrants due to the fact that a very high number of recent immigrants chose to settle in the Vancouver area. CMAs outside the lower mainland area tended to have a relatively higher proportion of intraprovincial migrants and movers within the same municipality.

B.C. Population Aged 5 and Over by Mobility Status by Selected CMA

CMA	Total	Non-Movers	Moved within Municipality	Moved within Province	Moved from Another Province	Moved from Another Country
Vancouver	1,114,245	607,215	274,095	163,900	44,610	24,425
Victoria	251,720	133,435	68,805	31,140	15,020	3,320
Kelowna	117,215	57,300	31,095	19,680	7,955	1,180
Abbotsford	99,955	52,415	25,225	17,945	3,415	950
Kamloops	71,920	38,065	20,515	10,455	2,590	300

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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Apr 1/03	% change on one year ago
BC	4,162.5	0.8
Canada	31,559.2	0.8
GDP and INCOME		
(BC - at market prices)	2002 Prelim.	% change on one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	134,365	2.7
GDP *($ 1997 millions)*	126,141	1.8
GDP *($ 1997 per Capita)*	30,459	0.8
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1997 per Capita)*	19,445	-0.2
TRADE ($ millions, seasonally adjusted)		% change on prev. month
Manufacturing Shipments - May	2,760	-0.8
Merchandise Exports - May	2,494	2.5
Retail Sales - May	3,389	-0.5
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		12-month avg
(all items - 1992=100)	Jun '03	% change
BC	120.2	2.6
Canada	122.1	3.3
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Jun '03	prev. month
Labour Force - BC	2,188	-0.3
Employed - BC	2,007	0.1
Unemployed - BC	181	-4.0
		May '03
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	8.3	8.6
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	7.7	7.8
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jul 30/03	Jul 31/02
Prime Business Rate	4.75	4.50
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	4.55	5.35
- 5 year	6.20	7.05
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jul 30/03	Jul 31/02
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.3997	1.5843
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.7140	0.6318
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jun '03	one year ago
BC	688.57	3.0
Canada	659.76	1.4

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bankofcanada.ca

British Columbia Provincial Economic Multipliers and How to Use Them

Author: Garry Horne, April 2003

37 pages

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- BC Business Indicators, July 2003
- Current Statistics, July 2003

Next week

- Tourism Sector Monitor, July 2003

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